

of one hundred deaf and dumb and sixty-five blind in the white department, and sixty-three in the colored. These have been cared for and instructed at a per capita cost of about one hundred and ninety (\$190) dollars, the annual appropriation being forty thousand (\$40,000) dollars. The number of blind in the State, as reported, is 459 white and 266 colored. Forty deaf-mutes and eight blind are applying for admission, as per files, besides the large number of others whose applications have been discouraged, in view of the crowded condition of the Institution. Only such repairs as were absolutely necessary have been made. Only one death has occurred, and no epidemic disease. At the very best, it is not anticipated that the new Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, located at Morganton, can be opened for inmates before the autumn of 1893, if then, and it will be necessary to make provision for both classes in this Institution until that time.

In view of the contemplated change, it would be desirable during the summer months of vacation to make such improvements as the Board recommends for the benefit of the blind. The advantage of the introduction of a very full and satisfactory water supply from the city water-works is obvious. The pains and care bestowed upon the moral and intellectual instruction of these unfortunates is most commendable, and the daily religious exercises observed by all. The blind also attend the churches in the capital on Sunday, while the deaf-mutes have a lecture and scripture lesson and Sunday-school at the Institution.

Permit me to call your attention to the necessity, as pointed out by the efficient President of the Board, that the blind are far more helpless than the deaf and dumb, and that a larger per capita cost must always be expended for them. It may be reasonably expected that the deaf and dumb, when appropriately situated, may contribute very largely to their own support by farming, gardening,